



Press Release

Press Release Announcement – March 11, 2003 – For Immediate Use
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Pennsylvania's Annual Red Meat Production Increases 7.2 Percent in 2002

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during 2002 totaled 1252.6 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 7.2 percent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Commercial cattle slaughter, at 1,040,900 head, was up 9.0 percent from last year. Of this number, 1,037,200 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. The federally inspected slaughter consisted of 46.7 percent steers, 8.4 percent heifers, 41.9 percent cows (of which 73.5 percent were dairy cows), and 2.9 percent bulls and stags. Beef production, at 1329 million pounds live weight, was 10.0 percent more than 2001. Average live weight per head was 1,277 pounds, an increase of 12 pounds from last year.

Commercial calf slaughter, at 190,300 head, was up 11.6 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 64.87 million pounds live weight, was up 3.4 percent from a year ago. Average live weight per head decreased 27 pounds to 341 pounds per calf.

Commercial hog slaughter, at 2,628,400 head, was up 3.9 percent from last year. Of this number, 2,623,200 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Barrows and gilts made up 99.9 percent of the federally inspected slaughter. Pork production was 649.0 million pounds live weight, up 4.1 percent from 2001. Average live weight increased 1 pound per head to 247 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 70,200 head, was up 22.1 percent from last year. Of this number, 69,600 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Lambs and yearlings made up 90.5 percent of the federally inspected slaughter. Lamb and mutton production was 7.3 million pounds live weight, up 24 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 103 pounds.

There were an estimated 331 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2003, of which 114 were under federal inspection.

Nationally, red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 47.3 billion pounds in 2002, a new record high.

Beef production, at 27.2 billion pounds, rose 1 percent above the record high set in 2000. Veal production totaled 205.2 million pounds, up 1 percent from the record low set last year. Pork production, at 19.7 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the record high set in 1999. Lamb and mutton production totaled 222.2 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the record low set in 2001.

There were 879 slaughtering plants under federal inspection in the U.S. on January 1, 2003, compared with 881 last year. Of these, 706 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2002 with 15 slaughtering over 56 percent of the total cattle killed. There were 683 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 13 accounting for 57 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 268 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for over 49 percent of the total and 7 of the 525 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2002 comprised 80 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for over 52 percent of the U.S. commercial red meat production in 2002.